

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02347 151148Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PER-01 MMO-01 ABF-01 /019 W

-----066758 152214Z /63

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4863

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2347

DEPT FOR AF; AID FOR AFR; NAIROBI FOR REDSO/EA, FOR EAAC
FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: AID STAFFING IN KHARTOUM

REF: A. STATE 125311, B. STATE 164643

1. I HAVE NOW HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS AID PROGRAM AND STAFFING WITH AAO, DCM AND OTHERS IN EMBASSY. I WISH INITIALLY TO HAVE AID OFFICE HERE CONSISTING OF AID REP, A DEPUTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AS WELL AS AN AMERICAN SECRETARY. DECISIONS ON OTHER POSITIONS WILL BE TAKEN AS WE SEE HOW PROGRAM DEVELOPS.

2. I ACCEPT WITH PLEASURE NOMINATION OF GORDON PIERSON AS AID REP IN KHARTOUM AND LOOK FORWARD HIS ARRIVAL HERE O/A SEPT 1. I WANT RIC MACHMER TO REMAIN AS PIERSON'S DEPUTY, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE A YOUNG ENERGETIC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO ASSIST EMBASSY ADMIN OFFICER IN ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS OF GETTING AID OPERATIONS STARTED UP HERE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WELCOME AND CONCUR IN TDY ASSIGNMENT OF JOHN BANYAS (REF B).

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3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SEEK TO CORRELATE, INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, THE GROWTH OF THE AID MISSION IN KHARTOUM WITH ACTUAL AND VISIBLE AID DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN REACHING THIS CONCLUSION I HAVE HAD TWO FACTORS IN MIND: (A) THE EFFECT OF CREATING A FAIRLY LARGE (BY LOCAL STANDARDS) AID HEADQUARTERS IN KHARTOUM TOO LONG BEFORE

ACTUAL FIELD WORK BEGINS (I.E., IT COULD RESULT IN AID'S BECOMING A BURDEN ON US-SUDANESE RELATIONS RATHER THAN THE PLUS WHICH WE ALL INTEND); (B) THE PHYSICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS OF ESTABLISHING A MISSION HERE WHICH WILL BE ENORMOUS AS WE WILL BE COMPETING ON THE LOCAL SCENE FOR VERY SCARCE RESOURCES IN TERMS OF HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE, LOCAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL, ETC. FOR THESE REASONS, I THINK IT MOST POLITIC TO MAKE HASTE SLOWLY; TO ESTABLISH AND FILL AID POSITIONS ONLY AS THE NEED FOR THEM CAN BE DEMONSTRATED BOTH TO OURSELVES AND THE SUDANESE. I PLAN TO KEEP THIS MATTER UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW WITH AID DIRECTOR AS PROGRAM DEVELOPS. MOREOVER, IN RECRUITING US PERSONNEL, WE SHOULD BE VERY FRANK IN DESCRIBING TO THEM CULTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DIFFERENCES AS WELL AS THE DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS WITH WHICH THEY WILL HAVE TO COPE.

4. I WELCOME, AND INDEED BELIEVE ESSENTIAL TO THE PURSUIT OF OUR OBJECTIVES, THE RESUMPTION OF AN AID PROGRAM IN THE SUDAN. I THINK IT IS IN ALL OF OUR INTERESTS THAT SUCH A PROGRAM BE AS LEAN AND COST-EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE.

BERGUS

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